



# European Thermoplastic Compounders

The Voice of the Business for the Plastics Business in Europe

## I. News from ETHIC

### ETHIC welcomes CTS Cousin Tessier and PoloPlast as new members



Mr Katzmayer,  
Gabriel -Chemie



Mr Peruzzo,  
Ampacet Europe

The most recent **ETHIC** Plenary meeting, held on 23 October 2006, saw, the election of the 2006-2008 **ETHIC** Excom (1: Leopold Katzmayer from Gabriel-Chemie – 2: Daniel Peruzzo from Ampacet – 3: Philippe Druot from Polytechs – 4: Bernard Baert from PolyOne – 5: Wolf Kohler from TerHell – 6: Massimiliano Ravazzani from Lati), the newly appointed President (Leopold Katzmayer), Vice-President (Philippe Druot) and Treasurer (Daniel Peruzzo). **ETHIC** member company participation to its meetings has been numerous, like always; in the last meeting **ETHIC** Association was able to welcome two new member companies, namely “PoloPlast” (Austria) and “CTS Cousin Tessier” (France).

As decided during the last meeting, held in April, **ETHIC** have initiated some marketing tools to promote the image and the activities carried out by **ETHIC**: these initiatives take into account: 1) a brand new website ([www.compounders.eu](http://www.compounders.eu)), which will develop in becoming an interactive tool for members and potential new members in the field of Compounds and Masterbatch producers – 2) a leaflet reassuming the objectives of **ETHIC** and its activities – 3) a presence at the International Fair of Fakuma, in Germany – 4) actively invite new members to join.

## II. Update on EU Waste legislation

The actual revision of the EU Waste legislation has triggered more discussions and amendments than the EU Institutions would have expected.

The initial deadline to vote on the Thematic Strategy on Prevention and Recycling of Waste and the Waste framework Directive, previously foreseen for 10 October 2006, has been postponed to December 2006 or January 2007. This postponement of the Plenary vote in the European Parliament was mainly due to the fact that more than 600 amendments were tabled by the MEP's. The Environment Committee of the European Parliament will vote at the end of November 2006 regarding certain amendments to present at the Plenary Session. The most important issues on the table are: 1) Waste Hierarchy (Prevention, Re-use, Recycling, Recovering and Land filling) – 2) Definitions (especially of Recycling and when waste ceases to be waste) – 3) Definition of by-products (to be included or not in the revision of the Waste Framework Directive) – 4) Quality Standards (for secondary materials from waste, with compost being the priority).

## III. REACH

### European Parliament Plenary vote postponed

The REACH rapporteur, Italian Socialist MEP Guido Sacconi asked to postpone the vote in second reading in the EU Parliament. The compromise between the two bodies of the European Union (namely, European Council and European Parliament) is still to be found. Unofficial news, today affirm that the most probable date for the vote is end of November 2006 or December 2006. The Finnish Presidency still hopes and is working to get REACH in place before the end of its presidency, in order to avoid the conciliation procedure.

The curtain is still closed on what the compromise between Council and Parliament will look like. The major discussion relate to authorization and thus substitutions (For the Parliament: dangerous chemicals would only be authorised for use if there were no alternative, if the socio-economic benefits outweighed the risks and if the risk could be adequately controlled and authorization should be limited to five years – for

the Council: some dangerous substances should continue to be used if their risks can be controlled, irrespective of whether alternatives exist), but also when to introduce polymers fully into REACH.

The Environment Committee vote (October 2006) left a door open to save recycling under REACH. Amendment 59 (For reasons of workability, wastes and materials used as a secondary raw material or as a source of energy should be exempted. Generating value ("valorisation") from wastes and materials used as secondary raw material or as a source of energy in recovery operations contributes to the European Union's objective of sustainable development, and this Regulation must not introduce requirements which reduce the incentives for such recycling and recovery) This amendment is essential to safeguard the plastics recycling industry in Europe. If Europe claims to become a European Recycling Society by 2010 as stated in the thematic strategy on Prevention and Recycling of Waste it should create the conditions for plastics recyclers to operate and develop a sustainable business. Steps towards avoiding the conciliation procedure are made almost daily. The latest news affirm that Mr Sacconi and the Council are struggling to reach a compromise packaging that would satisfy the two main political bodies involved in the legislative process: Parliament and Council.

A trialogue meeting is expected by the end of November, with the aim of resolving controversial issues.

#### IV. News from the EU Presidency

Finland, as President of the European Council until 31 December 2006, believes that a compromise between the EU governments and the Par-

liament is possible and desirable before the end of its mandate; leaving the next Presidency of the EU, Germany with much less to do in terms of REACH Regulation. The main topics of discussion, after the Environmental Committee vote in the Parliament are: 1) Registration and 2) Authorization and thus the concept of substitution. However the space for movement for both the Council and the Parliament is very limited, also due to the fact that the rules under the second reading are much stricter than in the first reading.

#### V. News from the Fakuma Fair of 2006



The Fakuma fair represents (besides the K Fair in Düsseldorf) the most important event in the European Union for the Compound and Masterbatch Industry.

The number of visitors to the Fakuma Fair in 2006 has slightly decreased since 2005,

according to figures released by the organizers of the Fair; however the number of exhibitors has increased in 2006.

There has been less, in number of visitors and exhibitors, of international companies.

The organizers feel that the Fakuma Fair has grounds to increase its capacities and two more halls will be available in 2008.

#### VI. Conferences & Meetings

<b>EuPC</b>	3rd EuPC Conference on REACH, EuPC offices, Brussels, <b>7 December 2006</b>
<b>EuPC</b>	Regulated Substances Conference, EuPC offices, Brussels, <b>14 February 2006</b>
<b>ETHIC</b>	Plenary and Excom Meeting, <b>March 2007</b>

#### VII. Coming Up in the Next Newsletter

- ◆ REACH  
RIP 3.2 phase II
- ◆ Update on EU Waste legislation